



Public Transportation News

November, December and January have been busy months filled with reviewing grants, starting compliance oversight reviews, preparing for site visits, STI criteria updates, initiation of new studies and going through our first round of Consultant milestone reviews using our Project Performance Technical Evaluation System and Database.

Grant Reviews

Applications have been received and reviewed for the 5310, 5311, 5307 matching and lapsing, 5303, SMAP and ROAP programs. Next, we will finish FY 2016 calls for projects by requesting projects in Transportation Demand Management and Urban Technology.



Compliance Oversight and Site Visits

Compliance reviews of the twenty-five transit systems scheduled this fiscal year were launched. KFH, Parsons Brinkerhoff and Atkins are leading these efforts to review the thirteen compliance areas required by FTA. In addition, each Mobility Development Specialist will conduct two structured site visits, looking at many of the areas requested in our last state audit. Finally, we are continuing our System Safety Perform Reviews coupled with Drug and Alcohol reviews. It is a steep learning curve!



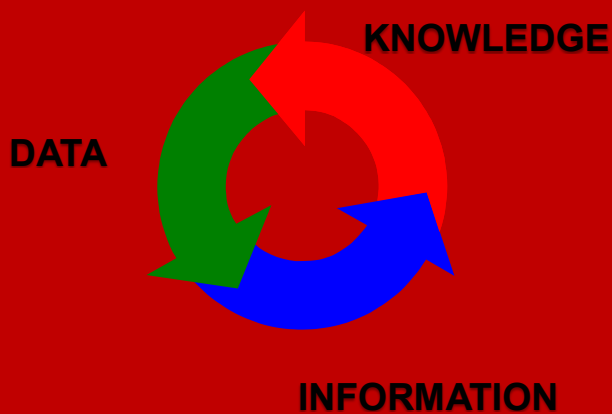
Strategic Transportation Investment

The first round of STI scores were released for public comment. Since their release, the SPOT office has hosted a Peer Exchange and is working with a consultant to review the scores; and, held bi-weekly work group meetings. Due to these activities, the modal ranking criteria will be reviewed and presented to the work group by mid-February/early March. A small group of customers is working with the PTD staff to simplify our criteria and using data that we already have, to know the data is accurate and that it is easy to replicate.



New Studies

- Economic Benefits of Transit – Using output from multiple models, PTD will measure the economic benefit contributions of transit. The three areas of benefit being produced are: transportation cost savings, mobility benefits and economic benefits. TREDIS will be used to generate the outputs of the third factor. Since TREDIS NCDOT's preferred economic benefit package, everyone is anxiously awaiting the results.
- Funding and Five Year Financial Plan – the notice to proceed was issued in late December. We will be looking at all programs, allocations and opportunities. The team has a large task and have a detailed five year budget will be beneficial to all.



Project Management – Building Success

PTD uses consultants in several pre-qualification areas. In order to build success, a data driven evaluation process was developed. PTD staff members have been trained on our new quantitative project evaluation tool and the project teams have scored the consultants on the first milestones. The areas scored are: Communications, Quality, Recordkeeping, Timeliness, Scope and Budget, Consultant Project Manager and Technical Performance. The evaluation reports are given as feedback to the consulting team after each deliverable.

Other News

- FTA has started a quarterly meeting schedule with NCDOT. In January, FTA was the host; the next meeting, PTD will be the host.
- Asheville, NC is the finalist for the Fall 2016 TRB Paratransit and Intercity Bus National Conference. PTD submitted the application on behalf of Asheville and the Asheville transit systems and Chamber of Commerce are busy locating hotels for the 500-600 expected attendees.
- Sarah McCue has joined us as the Multimodal Communications staff person.
- Check out Transit Initiatives on NCDOT Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/NCDOT1>